

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD WORKSHOP SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
AUGUST 19, 2020**

**ITEM 9**

**SUBJECT**

PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON STATUS OF PHASE 1 OF THE SALTON SEA  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**DISCUSSION**

[Water Rights Order \(WRO\) 2017-0134](#) requires that the State Water Board hold a public meeting no later than March 31 of each year during Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) to receive oral and written comment on the status of Salton Sea Restoration. A workshop was originally scheduled to be held on March 18, 2020 but the workshop was cancelled due to the COVID-19 emergency. The purpose of the August 19, 2020 workshop is for the State Water Board to hold the State Water Board's second annual workshop to receive information related to the progress of Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program from state agencies and to receive written and oral comments from the public.

**BACKGROUND**

On October 28, 2002, the State Water Board issued [Order WRO 2002-0013](#) which approved the long-term transfer of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority, the Coachella Valley Water District, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. On December 20, 2002, the State Water Board issued [Order WRO 2002-0016](#), which revised Order WRO 2002-0013. On November 18, 2014, the Imperial Irrigation District filed a Petition for Change seeking modification of [Revised Order WRO 2002-0013](#). In May 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. established the Salton Sea Task Force to identify realistic short- and medium-term goals to respond to potential air quality and ecological impacts resulting from scheduled reduced flows of fresh water to the Salton Sea. As a part of the Salton Sea Task Force, the State Water Board regularly monitors and assesses progress on the implementation of the Salton Sea Task Force's SSMP, including workshops that were held on March 18, 2015, January 5, 2016, April 19, 2016, November 15, 2016, and September 7, 2017.

On November 7, 2017, the State Water Board adopted Order WRO 2017-0134 amending revised Order WRO 2002-0013 to incorporate additional conditions that set forth specific restoration milestones to address public health and environmental concerns within Phase 1 of the SSMP (see Table 1). The State Water Board held its first annual workshop on March 19, 2019 at the North Shore Beach and Yacht Club in North Shore, CA.

Per Order WRO 2017-0134, a report from state agencies, due in the 1st quarter of 2020, will identify: (i) completed projects and milestones achieved in the prior year; (ii) amount of acreage of completed projects that provide dust suppression and habitat restoration, broken down by habitat type; (iii) upcoming projects to be completed and milestones to be achieved prior to the next annual progress report; (iv) the status of financial resources and permits that have not been secured for future projects; (v) any anticipated departures from the dates and acreages identified in condition 24 of the order, and; (vi) progress toward development of the long-range plan described in condition 26 of the order. Once this report is submitted, a link to this report will be provided on the State Water Board's Salton Sea Program web page: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/salton\\_sea/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/salton_sea/) and the California Natural Resources Agency's Salton Sea Management Program web page: : <http://saltonsea.ca.gov/>. Information submitted in this report will be presented at the workshop.

Table 1: Specific restoration milestones to address public health and environmental concerns within phase 1 of the SSMP.

Year	Total number of acres of habitat and dust-suppression projects that shall be completed each year (annual milestones).	Report due to State Water Board on progress made toward meeting each annual milestone.
2018	500	First quarter of 2019
2019	1,300	First quarter of 2020
2020	1,700	First quarter of 2021
2021	3,500	First quarter of 2022
2022	1,750	First quarter of 2023
2023	2,750	First quarter of 2024
2024	2,700	First quarter of 2025
2025	3,400	First quarter of 2026
2026	4,000	First quarter of 2027
2027	4,000	First quarter of 2028
2028	4,200	First quarter of 2029

Total acres to be completed by the end of 2019: 1,800.

For more information about the background and history of the State Water Board's involvement with the Salton Sea, please visit the State Water Board's web page at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/salton\\_sea/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/salton_sea/)

Additional information on the Salton Sea Management Program is available on the California Natural Resources Agency's web page at: <http://saltonsea.ca.gov/>

## POLICY ISSUE

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.